

## 9.1

How did a growing conservative movement help reshape American politics?

Conservative	Liberal
Political Conservatives= Wanted to shrink “big government”	Favored federal action to regulate economy and solve social problems
Give power to states and local governments	New Deal
Curb taxes	Great Society
Deregulating business	
Social Conservative= “Traditional” values; family, patriotism, religion	

As a result of the conservative movement, we were able to gain more help in reshaping American politics. There are two types of conservative groups; the social and political conservative groups. The social group was effective in reshaping the American political campaigns because it created such groups as the Moral Majority, which focused greatly mainly on the religious, patriotic, and family moral values of America. The Moral Majority was brought up a lot in politics after its creation. It got more people interested in politics and endorsed like-minded people. Political conservation was aimed toward the act of shrinking “big government,” that is, creating a government more close to home. Doing this would mean the powers were determined among states and they could create their own government according to their wishes, needs, and standards. This created balanced views and more focused opinions from groups of people when it came to election time.

1) Reagan said, “Government is not the solution to the problem, government IS the problem.” Throughout the 1970’s, prices were rising faster than incomes, providing problems for the American citizens. To make it even worse, the government was unable to slow the inflation of these prices. We had to come up with solution for this.

2) The Conservative ideology was to conserve or regulate certain aspects of American life, including the government. There were two groups of Conservation; the Social Conservators and the Political Conservators. The social group was effective in reshaping the American political campaigns because it created such groups as the

Moral Majority, which focused greatly mainly on the religious, patriotic, and family moral values of America. The Moral Majority was brought up a lot in politics after its creation. It got more people interested in politics and endorsed like-minded people. Political conservatism was aimed toward the act of shrinking "big government," that is, creating a government more close to home. Doing this would mean the powers were determined among states and they could create their own government according to their wishes, needs, and standards. This created balanced views and more focused opinions for groups of people when it came to election time. Reagan was huge on conservatism, which got the attention of many voters. A growing conservative population elected Ronald Reagan as president in 1980.

3) Reagan pursued these goals by persuading Congress to lower taxes by 25% in 1981. He also brought out deregulation, a program scaled back from federal rules for business purposes. As another great accomplishment, "Reagan reduced costly antipollution regulations and opened protected federal lands to oil and lumber companies. Such actions brought praise from business leaders and criticism from environmentalists." (pg. 939)

4) The Presidents that followed Reagan continued Conservative ideas.

George H.W. Bush was trying to continue with Reagan's ideas. He even promised during election, "Read my lips, no new Taxes!" He eventually, not too much later, broke his promise due to economic problems we were having. This upset many conservatives since he came to the conclusion that it was indeed the only way to fix the problem. Clinton, the first Democratic president in 32 years, also raised taxes, but he also cut down on government spending to enhance the possibility of regaining lost money. He also cut down on spending by overhauling welfare. During the Clinton years, stocks hit a record high and since a prior 30 years, unemployment was at its lowest. All was well until his impeachment after winning a second election in 1998. George Bush, the son of the former president went into office saying he would restore integrity and support conservatism. He put tax cuts high up on his agenda as well as support of the No Child Left Behind Act. He was proving to be a strong president showing great American leadership. (pg. 939-942)

5) Combined with an increase in traditional values, Americans welcomed a conservative political agenda. By completing such acts, the way of American politics changed drastically, and reshaped the way we thought and participated in political activities.